



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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**HAWAII'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR
OCTOBER REMAINS UNCHANGED OVER-THE-MONTH
AT 4.5 PERCENT**

National Unemployment Rate rises to 6.5 percent

HONOLULU- The Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October was 4.5 percent, remaining stable over-the-month. In contrast, the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.4 percentage point over-the-month, going from 6.1 percent in September to 6.5 percent in October. In Hawai'i for the month of October, there were 635,100 employed and 30,250 unemployed, for a seasonally adjusted labor force of 665,350.

| State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | <u>Oct 2008</u> | <u>Sep 2008</u> | <u>Oct 2007</u> |
| Labor Force | 665,350 | 667,450 | 647,300 |
| Employment | 635,100 | 637,400 | 629,100 |
| Unemployment | 30,250 | 30,050 | 18,200 |

| | OCT 2008 | SEP 2008 | OCT 2007 |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| STATE | 4.5 | 4.5 | 2.8 |
| HONOLULU# | 3.8 | 4.2 | 2.4 |
| HAWAII COUNTY# | 6.3 | 6.7 | 3.3 |
| KAUAI# | 5.4 | 4.9 | 2.5 |
| MAUI COUNTY# | 5.3 | 5.5 | 3.2 |
| Maui Island# | 5.0 | 5.2 | 3.2 |
| Molokai# | 12.5 | 15.3 | 5.4 |
| Lanai# | 4.4 | 4.9 | 1.0 |
| U. S. | 6.5 | 6.1 | 4.7 |

non-seasonally adjusted

Industry Payroll Employment

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs declined by 1,000 from 622,200 to 621,200 in October. Other services remained unchanged. The private sector saw job losses in almost every industry. Job decreases were in Trade, Transportation and Utilities; and Educational and Health Services (-300 jobs each) as well as in Construction and Leisure and Hospitality (-500 jobs each). Government comprised the largest growth in jobs predominantly in state government in the Department of Education. Over-the-year from October 2007, the seasonally adjusted job count declined by 1,900 jobs, most of which occurred in the private sector.

“As part of Governor Lingle’s Five-Point Proactive Economic Action Plan, we are working hard to accelerate \$1 billion dollars worth of capital improvement projects which will positively impact the construction industry and the economy as a whole”, said Darwin L.D. Ching, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (State)

| SELECTED SERIES: | Oct-08 | Sep-08 | Oct-07* |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING AND CONSTRUCTION | 38,200 | 38,700 | 39,400 |
| TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES | 117,300 | 117,600 | 120,800 |
| Wholesale Trade | 18,400 | 18,500 | 18,500 |
| Retail Trade | 70,100 | 70,400 | 69,700 |
| EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES | 74,300 | 74,600 | 72,500 |
| Educational Services | 14,800 | 14,900 | 13,800 |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 59,500 | 59,700 | 58,700 |
| LEISURE & HOSPITALITY | 106,600 | 107,100 | 109,000 |
| Arts, Entertainment & Recreation | 11,100 | 11,300 | 12,000 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 95,500 | 95,800 | 97,000 |
| OTHER SERVICES | 27,500 | 27,500 | 26,900 |
| GOVERNMENT | 126,100 | 125,100 | 122,700 |
| Federal Government | 32,500 | 32,600 | 31,500 |
| State Government | 74,900 | 73,800 | 73,100 |
| Local Government | 18,700 | 18,700 | 18,100 |
| TOTAL: STATE | 621,200 | 622,200 | 623,100 |

❖ **Other Services (No change)**

This miscellaneous category remained relatively stable after two consecutive months of increase. The upward trend in personal care services and civic and social organizations was offset by the downward trend in automotive repair and maintenance.

❖ **Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-300)**

This major industry recorded a 300 job loss over-the-month. Transportation reported a modest 100 job gain in support activities for water transportation. Meanwhile, Wholesale Trade recorded a minimal 100 job loss in grocery and related product merchant wholesalers. After experiencing a slight increase in September, Retail Trade dropped by 300 jobs across various sectors including automotive parts, accessories, and tire stores; building materials and supplies dealers; and sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores.

❖ **Educational and Health Services (-300)**

Educational and Health Services experienced two consecutive months of job growth prior to its 300 job loss in October. Educational Services fell by a minimal 100 jobs in private institutions. Health Care and Social Assistance descended by 200 jobs. The decrease was noted with fewer jobs in physicians and other health practitioners' offices as well as in hospitals.

❖ **Construction (-500)**

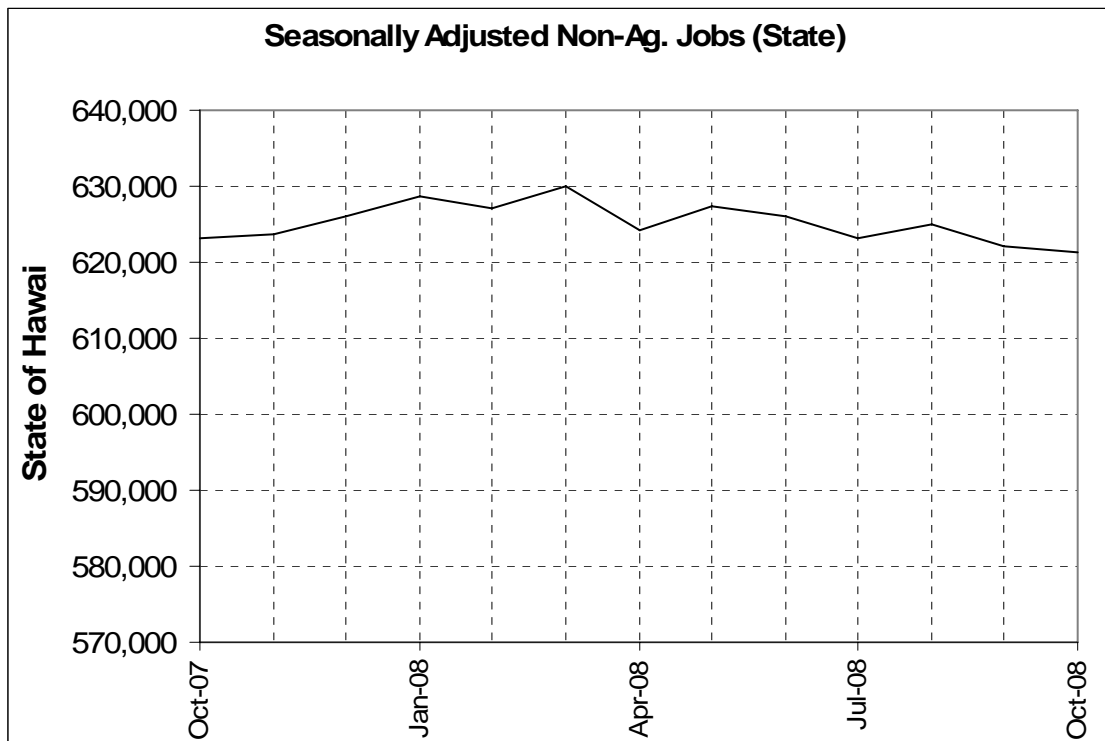
Construction continues to trend downward shedding 500 jobs over-the-month. This major industrial group registered losses in construction of buildings mainly in residential building construction; and special trade contractors in roofing contractors and building finishing contractors. The job decline partly reflected the continual increase in initial claims filings.

❖ **Leisure and Hospitality (-500)**

Leisure and Hospitality experienced a 500 job drop in October shared between two series. Arts, Entertainment and Recreation slipped by 200 jobs mostly in amusement and recreation industries. Accommodation and Food Services contracted by the remaining 300 jobs. The bulk of the reduction occurred in Accommodation, mainly due to a Kauai hotel temporarily releasing its staff as it undergoes renovation.

❖ **Government (+1,000)**

Government accounted for the largest job increase from September. Federal Government fell by 100 jobs while Local Government remained virtually unchanged. State Government rose by the greatest proportion predominantly in the Department Education. The job gain attributed to public schools continuing its unified calendar session.



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